## *In the Claims*


The status of claims in the case is as follows:


1-11 [Canceled]


12.   [Previously presented]   Method for operating an account payable computing system, comprising:


preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable data base original electronic invoices received from a vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:


identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice designation, same purchase order number, and same item number;


calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices identified as having said same vendor invoice designation, said same purchase order number, and said same item number;


identifying as a duplicate invoice an original electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is greater than zero;


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automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable data base; and

introducing said original electronic invoices not identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

13. [Previously presented] The method of claim 12, said preprocessing including

first sorting said original electronic invoice against an accounts payable production table for same vendor and same vendor invoice number;

second sorting hits from said first sorting for same purchase order billed;

third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items billed on purchase order;

calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice

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said original electronic invoice if it contains said

item with a net sum amount greater than zero.

14.   [Currently amended]  A computing system, comprising:

an accounts payable data base;

a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among

electronic invoices received from a vendor before

introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts

payable data base by:

identifying electronic invoices having a same vendor

invoice designation, same purchase order number, and

same item number;

calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices

identified as having said same vendor invoice

designation, said same purchase order number, and said

same item number;

identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

greater than zero;

an invoice processor for selectively automatically

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communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back
to said vendor for said original electronic invoice
identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said
original electronic invoice to said accounts payable ~~data
base, or~~ data base and introducing said original electronic
invoice not identified as said duplicate invoice into said
accounts payable data base.

15.    [Previously presented]  A program storage device tangibly
embodying a program of instructions for controlling the operation
of a computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic
input invoice from a vendor according to a method comprising:

preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable
data base original electronic invoices received from a
vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including:

identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice
designation, same purchase order number, and same item
number;

calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
identified as having said same vendor invoice
designation, said same purchase order number, and said
same item number;

identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

greater than zero;

automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection

transaction back to said vendor for said original electronic

invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting

said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable

data base; and

storing said original electronic invoices not identified as

duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

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16.   [Previously presented]   Method for operating an accounts
payable computing system, comprising:

receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;

rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors
not initialized as trading partners, and translating
original electronic invoices received from vendors
initialized as trading partners;

assuring that during said translating the count of
translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number
of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding
accepted invoices for preprocessing;

preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as
received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
identifying duplicate invoices including:

sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

auditing only debit invoices one at a time for

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duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts

payable data base only those debit invoices which are

not duplicate invoices;

identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

designation, same purchase order number, and same item

number;

calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices

identified as having said same vendor invoice

designation, said same purchase order number, and said

same item number;

identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

greater than zero; said identifying including

execution of check verbs, each said check verb being

satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate

invoice; said check verbs including determining that

this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice

checking is to be performed, determining that there is

a purchase order history of previous purchase orders

for said invoice, and determining for each item on

said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with

said sum being greater than zero for at least one said

item;

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automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection

transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic

invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting

said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable

data base;

posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring

that the number and amount of invoices posted to said

workflow database equal the number and amount of translated

invoices accepted for preprocessing;

logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for

subsequent manual processing;

logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as

exceptions invoices which are determined during

preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings

invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had

sales tax deducted;

introducing said original electronic invoices not identified

as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

17.    [Previously presented]   The method of claim 16, said

preprocessing including

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first sorting said original electronic invoice against an accounts payable production table for same vendor and same vendor invoice number;

second sorting hits from said first sorting for same purchase order billed;

third sorting hits from said second sorting for same items billed on purchase order;

calculating a net sum amount of said same items; and

rejecting back to said customer as a duplicate invoice said original electronic invoice if it contains said item with a net sum amount greater than zero.

18.    [Currently amended]  A computing system, comprising:

an accounts payable data base;

a translator for receiving an original electronic invoice from a trading partner and selectively rejecting said original invoice back to said trading partner or accepting said original invoice for further processing;

a preprocessor for identifying duplicate invoices from among

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electronic invoices accepted for further processing before

introducing said electronic invoices into said accounts

payable data base by:

sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

auditing only debit invoices one at a time for

duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts

payable data base only those debit invoices which are

not duplicate invoices;

identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

designation, same purchase order number, and same item

number;

calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices

identified as having said same vendor invoice

designation, said same purchase order number, and said

same item number;

identifying as a duplicate invoice an original

electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is

greater than zero; said identifying including

execution of check verbs, each said check verb being

satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate

invoice; said check verbs including determining that

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this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice

checking is to be performed, determining that there is

a purchase order history of previous purchase orders

for said invoice, and determining for each item on

said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with

said sum being greater than zero for at least one said

item;


an invoice processor for selectively automatically

communicating a duplicate invoice rejection transaction back

to said vendor for said original electronic invoice

identified as a duplicate invoice without posting said

original electronic invoice to said accounts payable ~~data~~

~~base, or~~ <u>data base and</u> introducing said original electronic

invoice not identified as said duplicate invoice into said

accounts payable data base.


19.    [Previously presented]  A program storage device readable by

a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

executable by a machine to perform a method for operating a

computing system responsive to receipt of an electronic input

invoice from a vendor for selectively rejecting back to said

vendor duplicate invoices without logging said duplicate invoices

to an accounts payable database, said method comprising:


receiving an original electronic invoice from a vendor;


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rejecting original electronic invoices received from vendors
not initialized as trading partners, and translating
original electronic invoices received from vendors
initialized as trading partners;

assuring that during said translating the count of
translated invoices rejected and accepted equals the number
of original electronic invoices translated, and feeding
accepted invoices for preprocessing;

preprocessing invoices accepted for preprocessing as
received from a trading partner vendor, said preprocessing
selectively validating a transaction, calculating line item
accounts, deducting sales tax, and identifying original
electronic invoices which are duplicate invoices before
introduction into an accounts payable data base, said
identifying duplicate invoices including:

   sorting all inbound invoices in credit/debit sequence;

   auditing only debit invoices one at a time for
   duplicate invoices and committing to said accounts
   payable data base only those debit invoices which are
   not duplicate invoices;

   identifying invoices having a same vendor invoice

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designation, same purchase order number, and same item
number;

calculating a net sum amount of items on invoices
identified as having said same vendor invoice
designation, said same purchase order number, and said
same item number;

identifying as a duplicate invoice an original
electronic invoice for which said net sum amount is
greater than zero; said identifying including
execution of check verbs, each said check verb being
satisfied to identify said invoice as a duplicate
invoice; said check verbs including determining that
this vendor is a vendor for which duplicate invoice
checking is to be performed, determining that there is
a purchase order history of previous purchase orders
for said invoice, and determining for each item on
said invoice a sum of its purchase order history, with
said sum being greater than zero for at least one said
item;

automatically communicating a duplicate invoice rejection
transaction back to said vendor for an original electronic
invoice identified as a duplicate invoice without posting
said original electronic invoice to said accounts payable

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data base;

posting said invoice to a workflow database and assuring
that the number and amount of invoices posted to said
workflow database equal the number and amount of translated
invoices accepted for preprocessing;

logging to an error queue invoices failing audit for
subsequent manual processing;

logging to an exceptions and warnings log table as
exceptions invoices which are determined during
preprocessing to be duplicate invoices and as warnings
invoices which during preprocessing were recalculated or had
sales tax deducted;

introducing said original electronic invoices not identified
as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

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